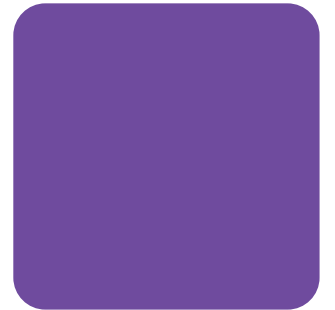


ANNUAL REPORT 2025



BALLARAT FOUNDATION UNITED
WAY INC
BALLARAT FOUNDATION
CHARITABLE FUND LTD
BALLARAT FOUNDATION TRUST



The Ballarat Foundation acknowledges the Wadawurrung people, the traditional owners of the lands and waterways in our region. We recognise their diversity, resilience, and the ongoing place that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold in our communities. We pay our respects to the Elders, both past and present, and commit to working together in the spirit of mutual understanding, respect and reconciliation.

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VISION AND MISSION

Ballarat Foundation United Way Inc is a DGR1 status, not-for-profit public benevolent institution which has been supporting the Ballarat community for more than 40 years.

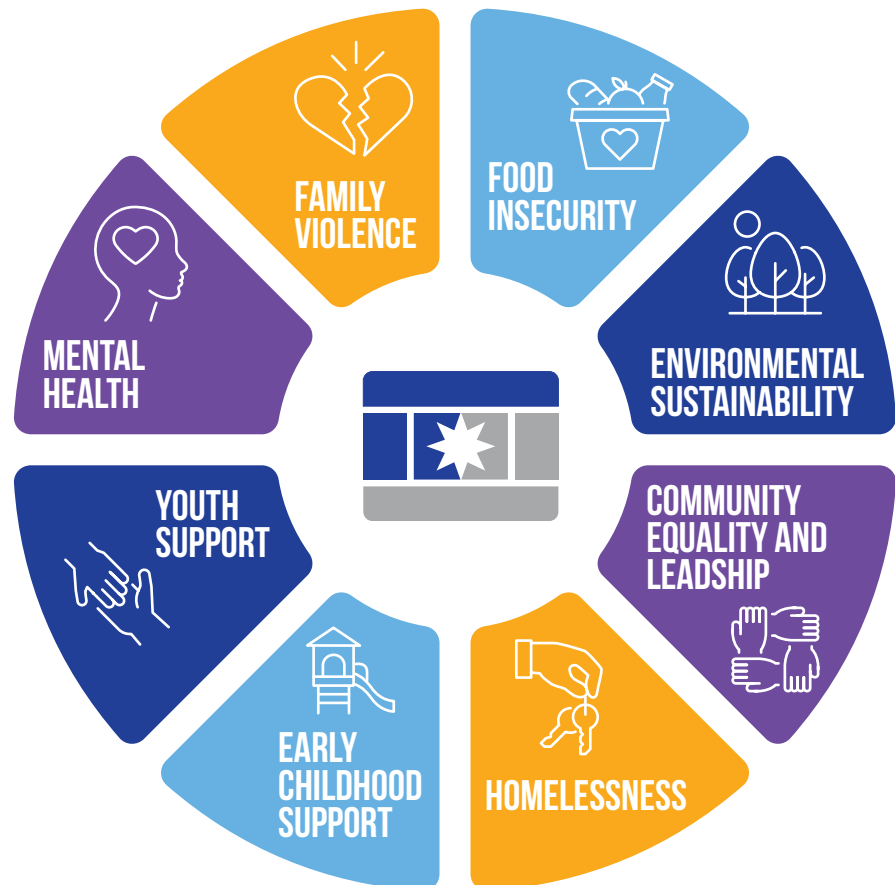
VISION

Enabling giving to build thriving communities free from disadvantage in the Ballarat region.

MISSION

The Ballarat Foundation inspires positive community change by supporting programs and enabling philanthropic solutions which reduce disadvantage and encourage connection, cohesion and prosperity.

FOCUS AREAS



KEY VALUES

RESPONSIBLE

We are accountable to our donors, partners and the communities we serve. We are good stewards of the funds we raise and will ensure our distributions and reporting are transparent.

LEADERSHIP

We are a leader and innovator in philanthropy.

INCLUSIVE

We embrace and promote inclusivity and equity. We are committed to actively supporting and promoting diversity across leadership, staff, volunteers, participants and grant recipients.

ENABLING

We amplify our impact by working in partnership with others to build a strong community.

WHAT WE DO



ADVOCACY

Championing community issues and raising awareness.



PHILANTHROPY

Connecting donors and legacy gifts to community needs.



BALLARAT FOUNDATION GIVING HUB

Creating space for collaboration and connection.



VITAL SIGNS REPORT

Shaping priorities through local data and insight.



COMMUNITY GRANTS

Funding local programs that strengthen the community.



FOCUS AREAS

Guiding our work toward lasting impact.



APPEALS

Supporting families through Christmas and winter giving.



L2P PROGRAM

Helping young people gain confidence and independence.



VOLUNTEERING BALLARAT

Building a strong community through volunteering.



DANCING WITH OUR STARS

Raising funds through community collaboration.



BALLARAT WOMEN'S FUND

Backing projects that support women with a giving circle.

LEADERSHIP REPORT

Strong communities are built when people choose to invest in the place they call home.

Ballarat is a city experiencing profound change. Rapid population growth, economic transition and shifting social pressures are creating both extraordinary opportunity and complex challenges for our community.

In this environment, the role of the Ballarat Foundation has never been more important.

During 2025, the generosity of our donors and partners enabled more than \$2 million in contributions to the Foundation's sub-funds and events, helping deliver record levels of distribution to Ballarat's community and not-for-profit organisations. This generosity reflects the tremendous trust our community places in the Foundation and in the power of collective philanthropy to create lasting change.

History will likely mark 2025 as a significant period in the Foundation's evolution as a community leader, convener and catalyst for positive change.

Following the opening of the Ballarat Foundation Giving Hub in late 2024, the space has quickly become a centre of collaboration for the region's social sector. Community organisations including Respect Victoria, the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, the Arch of Victory Committee and Ballarat North Neighbourhood House are among those utilising the facility, alongside more than 1,400 members of community groups, not-for-profit staff and volunteer-led organisations who have accessed the hub for meetings, programs and collaboration.

The Giving Hub represents an important evolution of the Foundation's role. While grantmaking remains central to our mission, the hub expands our ability to strengthen the entire social sector by creating a place where organisations, leaders and volunteers can connect, share ideas and build solutions together.

Responding strategically to emerging community needs continues to guide our work.

During the year, the Foundation announced a \$150,000 distribution to two initiatives addressing the growing homelessness crisis in Ballarat. The Zero Ballarat and Community Care Centre Ballarat projects work directly with people experiencing homelessness, providing both immediate support and longer-term pathways to stability.

Another important milestone was reached in March with the distribution of the second round of Ballarat Women's Fund grants, continuing the Foundation's leadership in supporting community action to address gendered violence and inequality.

Early in 2025 we also announced the first recipients of the Future Shapers Fund, delivered in partnership with the Committee for Ballarat to support emerging community leaders committed to the future of our city.

The Foundation further strengthened its role in civic leadership through a partnership with Respect Victoria to support the Respect Ballarat program, funded by the Victorian Government and focused on advancing community-wide efforts to prevent gender-based violence.

Late in 2025 the Foundation also commenced a national partnership with the Menzies Leadership Foundation to lead a place-based pilot of a Civility Exchange, engaging community leaders and advocates to explore how respectful dialogue and collaboration can strengthen communities. Ballarat hosted the national launch of this initiative in February 2026.

Together, these initiatives reflect the momentum behind the Foundation's 2024–2028 strategy and position the organisation to achieve its central goal — distributing more than \$1 million annually in grants and community support — two years ahead of schedule.

At a time when many communities face growing economic uncertainty and social complexity, the Foundation's continued growth demonstrates both the strength of Ballarat's philanthropic spirit and the increasing recognition of the role community foundations play in strengthening communities and shaping the future of place.

This progress would not be possible without the commitment and passion of our operational team and volunteer board directors. Their dedication to our vision, mission and values helps ensure that the Foundation continues to enable a Better Ballarat for all.

These initiatives reflect the momentum behind the Foundation’s 2024–2028 strategy and position the organisation to achieve its central goal — distributing more than \$1 million annually in grants and community support — two years ahead of schedule.

At the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM), former Chair Wayne Weaire, Deputy Chair Ian Corcoran and Allocations Committee Chair Emily Sweet were recognised as Life Associates after completing the maximum nine years of board service. At the 2026 AGM, Treasurer Nigel Jarvis will also receive this honour in recognition of his own nine years of contribution to the Foundation.

The Board has continued to focus carefully on succession planning, introducing prospective directors as observers during 2024 and 2025 to ensure strong governance and leadership into the future.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to every individual, family, business and organisation that supports the Ballarat Foundation. Your generosity and belief in our work make everything we do possible.

Because strong communities are built when people choose to invest in the place they call home — and together we are helping build a Ballarat that is just, equitable and free from disadvantage.



Ellen Jackson
Board Chair



Andrew Eales
Chief Executive Officer



Ballarat Foundation chair Ellen Jackson at the launch of Respect Ballarat in September.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Ballarat Foundation continues to maintain a strong commitment to supporting the long-term wellbeing of the Ballarat community through prudent stewardship of its corpus and responsible financial management. The corpus remains central to the Foundation's sustainability and underpins its capacity to provide consistent and meaningful distributions in support of community priorities.

The majority of corpus funds are held in perpetuity, ensuring the preservation and growth of the Foundation's capital base and enabling the delivery of long-term benefits to the region.

During 2025, several new sub-funds were established, further strengthening the Foundation's capacity to respond to emerging community needs and support targeted grantmaking across the Ballarat region.

Corpus income for the year totalled \$2.3 million, including almost \$1 million received from Respect Victoria to establish the Respect Ballarat Fund.

Operations income including programs and events totalled \$1.065 million, and capital works funding amounted to \$200,000. These results contributed to an organisational surplus of \$1,655,642 for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Total distributions during the year amounted to \$389,000. This included \$341,000 in grants awarded to community organisations, together with more than \$38,000 distributed through the Back to School voucher program and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library book program.

As at 31 December 2025, the Ballarat Foundation's corpus held total assets of \$7.37 million, comprising property, cash and receivables.

The continued success of the Dancing with our Stars fundraising event, together with the delivery of key community programs including the TAC L2P Program and Volunteering Ballarat, contributed positively to the Foundation's financial position and community impact during the year.

Nigel Jarvis, Treasurer

IMPACT DATA SINCE 2018

\$3,556,030



TOTAL GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

3,860

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE IMPROVED THEIR READINESS FOR EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING

463



GRANTS AWARDED TO COMMUNITY GROUPS



EMERGENCY MEALS PROVIDED

510,474

PEOPLE HAVE THE SKILLS TO IMPROVE THEIR LONG-TERM FOOD SECURITY



15,974

4,300



PEOPLE EXPERIENCING IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH

NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE IMPROVED SOCIAL MOBILITY DUE TO GAINING THEIR DRIVING LICENCE

478



155,902

PEOPLE INDIRECTLY BENEFITTING FROM GRANTS

4,489



NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH IMPROVED READINESS FOR SCHOOL



PEOPLE DIRECTLY BENEFITTING FROM GRANTS

27,335



COMMUNITY GROUPS FUNDED

262

YOUTH HAD ACCESS TO MORE ACTIVE LIFESTYLES THEY OTHERWISE WOULDN'T HAVE

1,187



COMMUNITY IMPACT

GRANT STORIES

A coordinated response to homelessness

The Ballarat Foundation committed \$100,000 over 2024 and 2025 to the Ballarat Zero Project, a community-driven effort to end rough sleeping in our city.

Led by the Central Highlands Homelessness Alliance, the project brings local services together around a shared goal to make rough sleeping rare, brief and non recurring.

Ballarat Zero uses the Advance to Zero approach, which focuses on housing first and coordinated support. A key tool is the By Name List, providing a real time picture of who needs help and enabling services to work together to move people into stable housing.

By supporting shared data, coordinated outreach and stronger housing pathways, this investment is helping build a more connected local response to homelessness in Ballarat.



Ballarat councillors joined Ballarat Foundation CEO Andrew Eales and Central Highlands Homelessness Alliance members for the launch of Ballarat Zero.



Southern Cross Kids' Camp

At Southern Cross Kids' Camp, children who have experienced trauma, neglect or instability are given the opportunity to attend a week of camp. For many, it is the first time they have had space to relax, build friendships and try new things.

When Lucy first attended camp in 2022, she stayed on the edge of the room, clutching the backpack she had been given and avoiding group activities. Each camper is paired with a dedicated adult mentor known as a Buddy, and Lucy's Buddy quietly stayed beside her, helping her feel safe and supported.

Over the following four years, Lucy returned to camp and gradually grew in confidence. She began joining activities, greeting other campers and building friendships.

"Camp was a happy place because it felt safe and I felt welcome. Camp has helped me grow."

- Lucy (not her real name)

By her final camp in 2025, Lucy arrived full of excitement and ran straight to find her friends. Lucy now has friendships, greater confidence and many positive experiences that will stay with her well beyond her time at camp.



Meals for Change program lead and Ballarat Foundation ambassador, Jen Pollard. Photo credit: The Courier.

Meals for Change

For many vulnerable young people in Ballarat, finding a safe place to connect with others can be difficult. Many young people can experience challenges such as financial hardship, family violence, mental health difficulties and disengagement from education, which can leave them feeling isolated from their community.

Uniting Ballarat's Meals for Change program offers a simple but powerful intervention. Through the program, young people can access heavily subsidised meals at local cafés, paying just \$3 for a meal worth up to \$17. While the meal may be the initial drawcard, the real impact is the sense of belonging and connection created when young people step into a welcoming community space.

Participation is voluntary and growing. Around 28% of members now self refer to the program, showing that young people are choosing to engage and build trusted relationships with support services. Surveys show improvements in belonging, confidence and wellbeing among participants.

“Meals for Change has given me the confidence to talk to people and it has given me the confidence to go back to school and also get a job.”

- Program participant

This program has allowed young people to have a sense of belonging and rebuild confidence and connection in the community.

RESPECT BALLARAT

Respect Victoria partners with Ballarat Foundation for Respect Ballarat: an innovative community response to gendered violence.

Respect Ballarat is an initiative with the Ballarat community to prevent gendered violence. It's about every part of the community coming together to take action for a Ballarat where everyone is respected, safe and free from violence. It aims to lower rates of gendered violence, with a focus on intimate partner violence.

The role of Ballarat Foundation spanned delivery of the first grants program, creation of the Respect Ballarat Fund to achieve ongoing sustainability of the model, and inclusion on the Local Advisory Group.

Respect Ballarat Grants Program

The Ballarat Foundation administered a \$1m grants program to support local organisations to work in purposeful partnerships to deliver targeted 12-month prevention and early intervention initiatives that support behaviour change work in Ballarat. The grants focused on:

- Building partnerships between local organisations, prevention and community organisations to further prevention work
- Building prevention knowledge, understanding and action in workplaces and communities
- Seeking local solutions to behaviour change to prevent gendered violence.

Applications opened in October 2025, closed in December and were announced at the end of February 2026.

Respect Ballarat Fund

A Fund was established by the Ballarat Foundation to build partnerships between community, government and philanthropy to support the long-term sustainability of Respect Ballarat to achieve saturation. Initiatives to engage with philanthropy included development of a Respect Ballarat Fund prospectus and meetings with key stakeholders. Funds achieved will intensify implementation of the model, maintain momentum, extend settings, create a national blueprint and enable transition to place-based management.

GIVING HUB OPEN FOR IMPACT

Officially opened in November 2024, more than 1,400 community members, volunteers and not for profit employees walked through the doors of the Ballarat Foundation Giving Hub at Hugh Williamson House in 2025.

The hub provides low cost tenancies and modern meeting room use for community-focused organisations and establishes a platform for the foundation – as the hub owner and operator – to enable positive impact in response to community needs by connecting and supporting aligned organisations and projects.

Feedback from users of the hub has been positive and new investments in digital technology and equipment will support more activities in 2026.



Ballarat Foundation Giving Hub houses permanent tenants including Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, Ballarat North Neighbourhood House, Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honor Committee and Respect Victoria.



L2P mentor Milad Nachar won the Community Service Award at the City of Ballarat Seniors Awards.

THE IMPACT OF THE L2P PROGRAM

The L2P program supports learner drivers who do not have access to a car or a supervising driver, helping them complete the 120 hours required to obtain their P-plates. The program aims to:

- Improve road safety
- Enhance access to employment and education opportunities
- Increase social mobility

A survey of 2025 graduate participants in the Ballarat L2P program revealed significant positive outcomes:

- 100% said the program significantly improved their road safety
- 88.9% said gaining their licence was very important in them gaining employment
- 94.45% said they felt less socially isolated since having their licence
- 100% said their mentor had a positive influence of them, with 94.44% saying this influence was highly significant in them making positive life decisions.

These results highlight the vital role the L2P program plays in empowering young drivers and improving their future opportunities.



Talia achieved her licence in 2025 after three years supported by the L2P program.

FROM ISOLATION TO OPPORTUNITY

Talia's Story

When Talia joined the L2P learner driver program in 2022, she was 17 and living in a caravan in Ballarat with her mum and two brothers. While she had good friends at school and a hardworking mother who always made sure there was food on the table, life had not been easy. When Talia was in Grade 5, her father was sent to prison. She still remembers the story appearing in the newspapers and the confusion and sadness that followed.

After leaving school, many of Talia's friends moved away from Ballarat to find work. As her social circle began to shrink, Talia started to feel increasingly isolated and uncertain about her future. One thing she did know was that she wanted to get her driver's licence.

Through the Ballarat Foundation's L2P program, Talia was matched with a volunteer driving mentor who supported her to build the confidence and skills she needed behind the wheel. Over more than a year of supervised driving,

the relationship with her mentor became an important source of encouragement and guidance.

During this time, Talia began to think more seriously about her future. After conversations with her mentor about employment opportunities, she decided she wanted to pursue an apprenticeship as a bricklayer. To improve her chances of finding work, Talia made the decision to switch from learning in an automatic car to driving a manual vehicle.

With a clear goal in sight, Talia committed herself to completing the required 120 hours of supervised driving. In May 2025, she achieved her probationary licence — a milestone that opened the door to employment.

Shortly afterwards, Talia secured a position as an apprentice bricklayer. Today she is enjoying her job, developing new skills, and saving money to pay off her car and eventually put down a deposit on her own home.

For young people facing financial hardship or limited family support, a driver's licence can be the difference between being locked out of opportunity and stepping into the workforce. Through the support of volunteer mentors and the L2P program, young people like Talia are gaining the mobility, confidence and independence they need to build stable and hopeful futures.

BALLARAT WOMEN'S FUND BACKING LEADERSHIP AND SAFETY

In 2025, members of the Ballarat Women's Fund selected Project Sitara as the Pick Our Project grant recipient.

Delivered by the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council, the project supports women from migrant and refugee backgrounds to build pathways to safety, confidence and connection. The initiative reflects the Fund's focus on prevention, empowerment and long term change for women in our community.

The project focuses initially on the Hindi speaking community, where language, stigma and isolation can make it harder for women experiencing family violence to seek support. Through Project Sitara, 8 to 12 women are being trained as Community Champions, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to guide others toward help.

By strengthening trusted community networks, Project Sitara is helping create culturally safe pathways to support for women in Ballarat.

The Ballarat Women's Fund evening in September brought donors and community members together to hear from journalist Bridget Brennan, who shared insights on gender equality, leadership and the importance of supporting women led solutions.

The event also aligned with the Great Women of Ballarat program, recognising and celebrating women whose leadership continues to shape the Ballarat community.



The team from Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council successfully pitched Project Sitara to Ballarat Women's Fund supporters.



VOLUNTEERING BALLARAT

The Volunteer Coordinators Network (VCN), chaired by the Ballarat Foundation, brings together more than 80 volunteer-involving organisations across the Ballarat region. The network provides a forum for sharing knowledge, resources and best practice to strengthen volunteering and support the delivery of essential community services.

Ballarat's volunteer workforce relies heavily on retirees, reflecting the broader Victorian trend where 85.6% of volunteers are retirees. The VCN works with local organisations to address barriers to participation and build a more diverse and inclusive volunteer base. This includes encouraging participation from young people, people with disabilities, migrants and First Nations communities.

In 2025, the Ballarat Foundation continued to support these efforts through initiatives such as the annual Volunteer Expo and a partnership with the City of Ballarat to launch an online Volunteer Directory. The 2025 Volunteer Expo, held at St Patrick's Hall, doubled its previous attendance record, attracting 400 visitors, with participating organisations reporting a 72% conversion rate from enquiry to volunteer placement.

LISTENING TO YOUTH TO STRENGTHEN VOLUNTEERING

Regional Victoria has strong potential to engage young people in volunteering, with youth volunteer participation 43% higher than in metropolitan Melbourne. However, many young people struggle to find formal volunteering opportunities, particularly those under 18.

To better understand these barriers, the Ballarat Foundation partnered with the Highlands Local Learning and Employment Network and the City of Ballarat to host a Youth Volunteer Forum. The event brought together secondary school students and local volunteer organisations to discuss challenges and opportunities for youth volunteering.

The forum revealed important insights. Many organisations believed young people were less motivated to volunteer or struggled to connect with older volunteers. However, students reported strong motivation to contribute to their community, build workplace skills, and develop social connections.

Students also demonstrated valuable creativity and technical skills during a collaborative activity to produce youth-focused volunteer recruitment videos, challenging common misconceptions about young volunteers.

Following the forum, the Ballarat Foundation developed a fact sheet outlining barriers and practical solutions to support organisations in becoming more youth-inclusive, helping strengthen Ballarat's future volunteer workforce.



VITAL SIGNS AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT

Understanding community needs and measuring the impact of local initiatives is central to the Ballarat Foundation's work. During 2025, the Foundation strengthened its approach to social impact measurement to ensure programs, partnerships and grant making are guided by evidence and aligned with long-term community outcomes.

A key tool in this work is the Ballarat Vital Signs report, which tracks more than 60 social, economic and environmental indicators across eight focus areas. Drawing on data from sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, government agencies and local service providers,

Vital Signs provides a comprehensive picture of emerging trends and challenges in the Ballarat community. This evidence base helps identify priority issues and guide the Foundation's strategic philanthropic work.

During the year, the Foundation further developed its Social Impact Measurement Framework to better align programs, partnerships and grant making with community outcomes. Grant guidelines, application processes and reporting requirements were redesigned to more clearly link funded activities to the Foundation's focus areas and theory of change, with an increased emphasis on measurable outcomes and long-term impact.

These improvements ensure that community grants, programs such as the L2P learner driver initiative, and volunteering initiatives are all contributing to shared outcomes for the region. By embedding measurement into program design and grant making, the Ballarat Foundation is strengthening its ability to demonstrate impact and support collaborative, community-led solutions to local challenges.



Ballarat Foundation Community Impact Manager Nina Fitzsimons with the 2025 Vital Signs report

GRANT RECIPIENTS 2025

Ballarat Innovation Grant

- Ballarat Zero Project (BZP): \$50,000 to help reduce rough sleeping. *(Housing Support)*

Ballarat Women's Fund Grant

Three shortlisted programs presented to members of the Ballarat Women's Fund to vote on and decide which grant would receive the funding.

Winner: Project Sitara – Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council led program providing culturally tailored support for Indian women facing family violence - \$30,000. *(Family Violence)*

Shortlisted: Ballarat Perinatal Educational Pilot Program – Helping new and expecting mothers, particularly in disadvantaged areas, access perinatal care.

Changing the Game – A Western Bulldogs Community Foundation initiative tackling gender-based violence through local football clubs.

Community Impact Grants Program

More than \$100,000 was distributed to community organisations and projects from our annual Community Grants Program.

Community Impact Grants Program

- **The Aboriginal Literacy Foundation** – Literacy tutoring for Aboriginal children. *(Youth Support)*
- **St John of God Foundation** – Recreational wellbeing activities at Horizon House. *(Youth Support)*
- **Southern Cross Kids' Camp** – Trauma-informed camp for at-risk children. *(Youth Support)*
- **Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand** – Thrive wellbeing sessions for Year 5 and 6 students. *(Mental Health)*
- **The Hidden Orchard** – Volunteer harvest and food relief equipment. *(Food security)*
- **Hand in Hand Ballarat** – Expansion of the Open Parachute mental health program in schools. *(Mental Health)*
- **Centre for Multicultural Youth** – Youth-led storytelling project on mental health and identity. *(Youth Support)*
- **Meredith Community Centre** – Food relief and Christmas hampers through the Meredith Mart. *(Food Security)*
- **Ballarat Community Health** – Positive Wellbeing

program addressing gender equality in junior sport. *(Youth Support)*

- **WRISC Family Violence Support** – Evaluation events capturing child survivor feedback. *(Youth Support/Family Violence)*
- **The Salvation Army VIC** – Mums Thrive mental wellbeing and food security program at Parker Place. *(Mental Health)*
- **Uniting Vic.Tas** – Meals for Change program supporting young people with meals and community connection. *(Youth Support)*

2025 Peter Amor Sports Participation Grant recipients

- **ReCranked – Y Ballarat Youth** – Bike recycling and transport access for young people. *(Youth Support)*
- **VRI Delacombe Cricket Club** – Junior cricket equipment upgrade. *(Youth Support)*
- **East Point FNC / Ballarat Bulldogs** – Fee subsidies for players with intellectual disabilities. *(Youth Support)*

Future Shapers Fund recipients

- Heidi Biggin (Peter Davies Award)
- Lee Martin (Adrian Ohlsen Award)

Matthew George Young Stockman Award winner

- Carlie Mackelmann

The Ballarat Foundation grants program are funded by contributions from the community and through distributions from the Ballarat Foundation sub funds. These sub funds include:

- Ballarat Foundation General Fund
- The Courier Charity Fund
- Canny Family Fund
- Janine Owen Fund
- Advanced Cabinetry Fund
- Integra Group Fund
- James Petrie Fund
- Ballarat Connected Communities Fund
- Adroit Risk and Insurance Fund
- Wendouree-Delacombe Fund
- Feed Ballarat Fund
- Young Ambition Fund
- Van den Broek Fund
- Val Sarah Fund
- Wimmera Primary Care Partnership Health and Wellbeing Fund
- Future Shapers Fund
- Matthew George Fund
- Housing Support Fund
- Stewart Family Fund
- Jamie Gear Fund

FUNDRAISING EVENTS & APPEALS

BALLARAT WINTER AND CHRISTMAS APPEALS

Ballarat Christmas and Winter Appeals provide relief to those needing help the most.

Ballarat's Christmas and Winter Appeals provide vital relief to those in our community who need it most. In 2025, the Ballarat community once again rallied with extraordinary generosity, donating cash, toys, non-perishable food, warm clothing and blankets for vulnerable individuals and families.

The Ballarat Foundation provides support to the local branches of the Salvation Army, Anglicare, Uniting and St Vincent de Paul, who accept referrals from community agencies to ensure support reaches those facing the greatest hardship.

We extend our sincere thanks to our major donors, the many businesses that collect goods, and community members who organise raffles, donate goods at cost or assemble care packs to give. We also thank the wider community for giving what they can, and our media partner 3BA for helping promote the appeal and coordinate donations.

In 2025, the Ballarat Foundation distributed \$140,000 across the Ballarat Christmas and Winter appeal, as well as tens of thousands in food, toys and other essential items.



DANCING WITH OUR STARS

Dancing with Our Stars once again demonstrated the power of community led fundraising in Ballarat. In 2025, the event raised more than \$185,000, helping the event surpass \$1 million raised since it began in 2019. Funds raised stay in Ballarat and support programs and grants that strengthen the local community.

Our ten Stars Anthony Ingerson, Gemma Snibson, Horace Tang, Jodie Perry, KV, Lilly Wright, Mandy Woods, Nicole O'Brien, Peter Downs and Taylah Chalmers stepped well outside their comfort zones, dedicating months to dance training while rallying support through their networks. On the night, Jodie Perry was named the overall Champion, Gemma Snibson received the Judges Award and Horace Tang won the People's Choice Award.

Dancing with Our Stars continues to bring the community together in a unique way, turning courage, creativity and generosity into lasting impact for Ballarat.



OUR SUPPORTERS

DONORS

Major gift to the Janine Owen Fund expands support for local community initiatives.

The Ballarat Foundation welcomed an additional significant contribution of \$350,000 to the Janine Owen Fund, further strengthening its capacity to support vital community projects.

The Janine Owen Fund was established in 2012 following Janine's tragic passing. Her husband, Tim Owen, created the fund to honour her deep commitment to helping others and to ensure her generosity would continue to benefit the Ballarat community for years to come.

Since its establishment, the fund has generated more than \$130,000 in grants supporting local initiatives addressing critical issues for young people, including education, mental health, homelessness and food insecurity.

These grants have enabled grassroots organisations to deliver practical support and innovative programs for people experiencing hardship across the region.

The additional major gift follows the recent settlement of the estate of Janine's parents, Betty and Gerald Mallon. In a further act of generosity, Tim chose to honour Janine's memory once again by directing the proceeds of the estate to the Janine Owen Fund, strengthening the family's legacy of community giving.

This latest contribution makes the Janine Owen Fund one of the largest private philanthropic endowments ever received by the Ballarat Foundation. As an endowed fund, the investment income generated will continue to provide grants to local organisations each year, creating a lasting and growing impact for the community.

Through this extraordinary gift, Janine's legacy of compassion and generosity will continue to support those most in need across Ballarat for generations to come.



Ambassadors Tim Bone and Jules Zass hosted Dancing with our Stars.

AMBASSADORS

Ballarat Foundation Ambassadors play an important role in strengthening connections between the Foundation and the wider community. This group of respected local leaders advocates for the Foundation's work, sharing the impact of programs and helping others understand why community giving matters in Ballarat.

Throughout the year, Ambassadors supported key events including the Grants Presentation, the Ballarat Women's Fund Pick Our Project evening and Dancing with our Stars. They also contribute behind the scenes by promoting Foundation initiatives, encouraging philanthropy and helping grow programs such as the Ballarat Women's Fund and the L2P mentor program.

Our Ambassadors are Randhir Sewgolam, Tim Bone, Fiona Murphy, Rob Croucher, Jules Zass, Lynne McLennan, Melissa Farrington, Sue Yung, Jen Pollard, Lee Martin, Val Sarah and Pam Sutcliffe.

SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS

Major sponsors and supporters

3BA/Power FM
Advanced Living Solutions
Alexander Racing
AW Nicholson
Ballarat Clarendon College
Ballarat Golf Club
Ballarat Mazda
Ballarat Turf Club
Ballarat Vet Clinic
Blakes
Brown-Forman
Buxton Ballarat
Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation
City of Ballarat
Commerce Ballarat
Committee for Ballarat
Country Women's Association Webbcona Branch
Creswick Woollen Mills
Donald & Sharon Moss
Dragline Cleaning Services
Eclipse Ford
Eureka Concrete
Field Air Ballarat
Fire Rescue Victoria (Lucas and CBD)
Gary White
Guthrie Family
Haymes Paint
IGA Ryan's Group Supermarkets Victoria
Ingenia
J & B Jackson Foundation
John Ross

Johnson Earthmoving
Joyca Pty Ltd
Lions Club of Ballarat
Lions Club of Buninyong Mount Helen
Mars Wrigley
MrBrakes - Bosch Car Service Centre
Munro Engineers
Peaches Run
PilatesFit Plus
Plan Group
Prowse Family
Racing Victoria
Ray White
Respect Victoria
Rosebank Social Group
Safe Inspect
Simplicity Funerals
Smith & Sons Ballarat
Sovereign Radiology
Sports Bet
Sri Lankan Australian Association of Ballarat Inc
Stewart Family
Tennis Ballarat
Terrain Civil
Terrain Earth Moving
The Butcher Club
Tim Owen
Timbeck Charitable Trust
Tony and Kerry Klein

Ballarat Women's Fund business supporters

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation
Ballarat Business Women's Network
Ballarat Performing Arts Centre
Brown-Forman Corporation
Business Story Lab
Catholic Diocese Ballarat Foundation
City of Ballarat

Gekko
 Ludowyk Evaluation
 McCain
 Potential Psychology
 The Courier
 UFS
 WRISC Family Violence Support

Workplace Giving

Ambulance Victoria
 Australian Catholic University
 Ballarat & Clarendon College
 Ballarat & District Trotting Club Inc.
 Ballarat Community Health
 Ballarat Group Training
 Ballarat High School
 Barker & Jennings
 Ballarat Grammar School
 Byrne Jones Torney
 Campbell, Ewen
 CatholicCare Victoria
 CE Bartlett Pty Ltd
 Central Highlands Water
 Child & Family Services Ballarat Inc CAFS
 City of Ballarat
 Colliers International
 Corio Waste Management
 Damascus College
 Department of Transport and Planning
 FMP Group
 Gekko Systems
 Grampians Health
 Haymes Paint
 Lake Imaging
 Loreto College Ballarat
 MARS Australia
 McCain Foods Pty Ltd
 McCallum Disability Services
 MOR Accountants

OzPress Pty Ltd
 Pinarc Disability Support
 Powercor Australia Ltd
 Sovereign Hill
 St John of God Hospital
 St Patrick's College
 TRG Accountants
 UFS Ballarat
 UGL Ballarat
 Uniting Victoria and Tasmania

Named Funds

Ballarat Botanical Gardens Fund
 Ballarat Connected Communities Fund
 Ballarat Foundation General Fund
 Ballarat Women's Fund
 Canny Family Fund
 Feed Ballarat Fund
 Future Shapers Fund
 Housing Support Fund
 James Petrie Fund
 Jamie Gear Fund
 Janine Owen Fund
 Peter Amor Sports Participation Fund
 Matthew George Young Stockman Award Fund
 Rotary Young Ambition Fund
 Stewart Family Fund
 The Courier Charity Fund
 Val Sarah Fund
 Van den Broek Fund
 Wendouree Delacombe Fund
 Wimmera Primary Care Partnership Health and Wellbeing Fund

Corporate Funds

Advanced Cabinetry Fund
 Integra Group Fund
 Adroit Insurance and Risk Fund

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD



Ellen Jackson
Chair

Ellen is a workplace psychologist, leadership development professional, and social science practitioner, passionate about impact through community capacity building. She is the founder of Potential Psychology, adjunct lecturer in two University MBA programs and a podcast producer and host. She is a regular subject matter expert on ABC radio, and Mum to two teen boys and two kelpies. Ellen was born and raised in Melbourne, trained and established her career in Sydney and now calls beautiful Ballarat home.



Jacki Whitwell
Deputy Chair

Joining the Board in January 2021, Jacki is an executive leader with more than 15 years experience in the not-for-profit sector in a variety of strategic policy, research and advocacy roles working with some of Australia's largest and most respected not-for-profit organisations. She is passionate about youth empowerment and ensuring all children and young people can reach their full potential. Jacki owns and manages her own social impact consulting company and has lived with her two children in Ballarat since 2019.



Scott Sherritt
Company Secretary

Joining the board in 2022, Scott is a long term Ballarat local with a strong commitment to the community. He has qualifications in corporate governance, accounting, risk management, financial planning and insurance, and is a registered Victorian Bail Justice. With a recognition of the benefits of strengths based development, he has supported community improvement through work in the health sector, local government and not for profit Board and Committee roles. The Ballarat region and its people continue to prosper by not leaving people behind and giving everyone a chance, and Scott is dedicated to contributing to this.



Nigel Jarvis
Treasurer

Nigel and is currently the Executive Director Finance & Corporate Services and Company Secretary at Western Victoria Primary Health Network. He has previously worked as Director of Commercial Operations Services St John of God Hospital Regional Victoria, Director of Business & Finance at Ballan District Health & Care and as Senior Financial Accountant for Ballarat Health Services. He is also Deputy Chair & Treasurer of Beaufort & Skipton Health Services and member of the Finance Consultative Committee Ballarat Catholic Diocese Education.



**Rochelle
Hotchkin**

Joining the Board in 2022, Rochelle is a digital producer with the ABC and she brings a deep understanding of social issues and a passion for helping the community to the Ballarat Foundation Board. Rochelle has been a community member of Committee for Ballarat and completed the Future Shapers leadership program in 2021, working with stakeholders to host a forum on homelessness. She also participated in Dancing with Our Stars in 2021 and 2022.



**Angus
Pryor**

Joining the Board in 2022, Angus is the Founder and CEO of Dental Marketing Solutions and an outsourcing company, Dental Stars. He brings a background in small business and marketing. In 2014, he founded a multi-award-winning marketing agency using the venture to support various charities. Before his time in business, Angus held managerial positions in the pharmaceutical industry and served as a diplomat with postings in Washington and Suva. His family has a long history of serving in the Ballarat community.



**Mitch
Brown**

Mitch brings a decade of experience in elite sport, where he gained deep insight into leadership, resilience, and culture. Inspired to share these lessons, he's travelled the world and worked with students across Australia. Today, Mitch is passionate about empowering individuals to discover their true selves, develop life skills, build meaning connections, and appreciate the world around them through transformative experiences. Mitch joined the board in 2025.



**Katrina
Baraquiel**

Appointed to the Board in 2025, Katrina is a gender equality, accessibility, and multicultural affairs advocate. Her niche interests include the drivers of migration, having lived in the Philippines, Spain, and Germany prior to studying in Australia. She shares evidence-based research and her lived experience to help break down barriers to access for women and gender diverse people across intersectional backgrounds. Katrina also completed the Future Shapers program in 2024.



**Lee Miezis
PSM**

Appointed to the Board May 2019 Lee has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Environment Protection Authority Victoria Since May 2021, and brings over 25 years' experience in the public sector in NSW and Victoria, working in executive roles across policy, service delivery and regulation. Accomplished at both strategy development and execution Lee brings strong commercial and financial acumen with a focus on good governance and managing risk.

BOARD



**Margaret
Moreton**

Dr Margaret Moreton is the Chief Executive Officer at Gender and Disaster Australia having most recently been the Executive Director at the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR). Previous roles include social policy and advisory positions and program management roles in government, working in community resilience from within philanthropy, working with non-government organisations, and delivering private consultancy services. She works to enhance indigenous outcomes, social and community outcomes, early childhood learning, stronger families and communities, and mental health and wellbeing. She lives in Ballarat and joined the board in 2025.



**Claire
Huntington**

Claire is an experienced business coach with over 20 years in corporate leadership, specialising in people and culture. She is the current Deputy Chair of McCallum Disability Services, and Chair of Food is Free, Inc. A Ballarat native, Claire is passionate about her community and has intentionally built her coaching business to allow dedicated time for community contribution. Her work supports leaders to align how they work with who they are and the impact they want to make. Claire joined the board in 2025.

Thank you to our directors



Wayne Weaire
Former Chair

Appointed in 2016, Wayne completed his 9-year tenure as a director at the 2025 AGM.



Ian Corcoran
Former Deputy Chair

Appointed in 2016, Ian completed his 9-year tenure as a director at the 2025 AGM.



Emily Sweet
*Former Allocations
Committee Chair*

Appointed in 2016, Emily completed her 9-year tenure as a director at the 2025 AGM.



Christine Shaw
*Former Governance
Committee Chair*

Appointed in 2021, Christine departed the board at the 2025 AGM.

STAFF 2025

Andrew Eales, Chief Executive Officer

Donna Fotheringham, Administration Officer

Lisa Hall, Volunteering Ballarat Coordinator and Vital Signs Project Officer

Lucy Ibrahim, Donor Engagement and Development Lead

Melissa McShane-Murphy, Finance Manager

Nina Fitzsimons, Community Impact Manager

Odette Wells, Administration Officer

Padma Giri, L2P Coordinator

Rae Godfrey, Administration Officer

Ricci Shepherd, Communications and Engagement Manager

Wendy Kendall, Administration Manager

FINANCIAL REPORTS

BALLARAT FOUNDATION UNITED WAY INC. STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Revenue - Operations		
Corporate Donations	2,040	4,140
Donations	239,411	229,058
Sales and Sponsorship	119,318	140,491
Government Grants	469,010	1,283,005
Grants - Other	401,349	72,294
Other Income	6,847	5,460
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	491	6,914
Rent	26,515	-
Total Revenue from Operations	1,264,981	2,441,362
Expenses - Operations		
Advertising Expense	(4,865)	(6,141)
Audit Expense	(11,850)	(11,500)
Back to School Vouchers	(10,014)	(47,500)
Book Distributions	(28,830)	(28,830)
Depreciation Expense	(64,320)	(49,693)
Distribution to Beneficiaries	(10,000)	(29,805)
Event Costs	(153,640)	(140,242)
Interest Expense	(15,401)	(27,389)
IT Expenses	(14,642)	(14,285)
Loss on Revaluation of Land and Buildings	-	(792,014)
Other Operating Expenses	(211,410)	(256,553)

Superannuation Expense	(83,945)	(88,849)
Training Expenses	(29,186)	(30,844)
Wage Expense	(704,824)	(793,560)
Workers Compensation	(22,767)	(22,510)
Total Expenses from Operations	1,365,267	2,339,715
Surplus from Operations	100,286	101,647
Revenue - Sub-Funds		
Corpus Donations	1,156,848	1,012,598
Rent	928,033	-
Investment Income	240,755	137,167
Total Revenue from Sub-Funds	2,325,636	1,149,765
Expenses - Sub-Funds		
Advertising Expense	(323)	-
Depreciation Expense	(30,702)	-
Distributions to Beneficiaries	(340,588)	(360,901)
Event Costs	(3,336)	-
Financial Investment Fees	(25,851)	-
Fundraising Fees	(3,305)	-
Training Costs	(614)	-
Wage Expense	(164,989)	-
Total Expenses from Sub-Funds	(569,708)	(360,901)
Surplus from Sub-Funds	1,755,928	788,864
Surplus for the Year	1,655,642	890,511
Other Comprehensive Income		
Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation of Shares	(26,062)	274,693
Loss on Revaluation of Land and Buildings		(122,779)
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	(26,062)	151,914
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	1,629,580	1,042,425

Please Note: The Summary Statement has been derived from and are consistent with the full independently audited financial statements which are available by request to the Chief Executive Officer. All Ballarat Foundation financial statements can be viewed on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission website www.acnc.gov.au

INSTAGRAM

9.1K

INSTAGRAM REACH

255

NEW FOLLOWERS

586

PAGE INTERACTIONS

82

LINK CLICKS

EVENT FUNDRAISING DWOS

\$185,912

DISTRIBUTIONS

\$400,405

INCLUDES GRANTS, AUSPICE, VOUCHERS, DPIL, APPEALS

DONATIONS

\$1,472,205

2025 TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED (THIS INCLUDES WPG)

LINKEDIN

9,384

REACH

438

NEW FOLLOWERS

321

REACTIONS

1,517

TOTAL FOLLOWERS



DIRECT MARKETING

20,934

EMAILS SENT

47%

AVERAGE OPEN RATE

18

INDIVIDUAL CAMPAIGNS



WORKPLACE GIVING CONTRIBUTIONS

\$47,584

FACEBOOK

357,310

FACEBOOK REACH

284

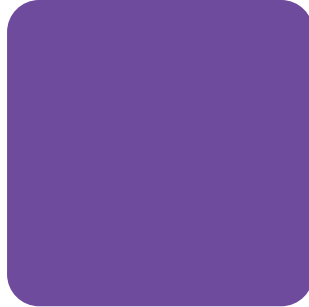
NEW FOLLOWERS

3,863

TOTAL FOLLOWERS

5,289

PAGE INTERACTIONS



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